

NEYLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1954.

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Preface to the Report.

District Health Department.
County Offices.
Haverfordwest.

September, 1955.

To the Chairman & Members
of the Council.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for the year
1954, as follows:-

The total population remains substantially
the same as for the preceding year. There has been
no appreciable change in the population, one way
or other, for several years.

The Birth-Rate remains similar to that for
the preceding year, and is still lower than the Rate
for the County and for the whole of England & Wales.

The Death Rate is a good deal higher than
the National Rate. This is offset to some extent
by the larger number of deaths (60%) in persons
over 70 years of age. There is a high proportion
of elderly people in the District and this reflects
unfavourably on both Births & Death Rates.

As far as specific causes of death are
concerned, there was no undue mortality from any
particular cause. There was only one violent
death, and no deaths from Tuberculosis.

Apart from Whooping Cough the incidence
of Infectious Diseases was very low.

General Environment Hygiene & Sanitation
remains reasonably good. There are, however, many
low category & substandard houses in the District.
It is hoped that the Council will formulate a
realistic programme to deal with these.

In conclusion I wish to thank the members
of the Council, & Officials for their continued
courtesy & co-operation.

I remain,

Yours obediently.

W.D.Y. Speedy.

Medical Officer of Health.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL & CONSTITUTION OF RELEVANT
COMMITTEES 1954 - 1955.

Chairman. Coun. J. Betty.

Vice- Chairman. Coun. G.F.Rees.

Sanitary, Highways & Water Committee.

Chairman. Coun. G.F.Rees.

Vice-Chairman. Coun. W.Rudge.

Members. Councillors: J.Betty, W.H.Charles,
A.J.Gillam, J.H.Nicholas,
F.W.Reeves, & J.A.Johns.

Housing Committee.

Chairman. Coun. S.C. Webb.

Vice- Chairman. Coun. W.L.A. Job.

Members. Councillors J. Betty, H. Brown, E. Dummer,
J.C. John, G.S. Parry, and
G.W. Simpson.Senior Officials of the Council.

	<u>Date of appointment.</u>
Clerk. F. Foster.	1. 7. 47.
Sanitary Inspector. D.D. Thomas.	1. 5. 55.
Medical Officer. W.J.Y. Speedy. M.B., B.CH., L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H.,	1. 10. 47.

PART. I.VITAL STATISTICS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY.SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1954.

Population (estimated Mid-Year)	= 2,220.
Natural Increase in population	= -3.
Crude Birth Rate	= 14.4. (a)
Corrected Birth Rate	= 14.9. (a)
Still Birth Rate	= Nil. (b)
Illegitimate Birth Rate	= 31.2 (b)
Crude Death Rate	= 15.7 (a)
Corrected Death Rate	= 14.4 (a)
Cancer Death Rate	= 1.8 (a)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	= Nil (a)

(a) Per 1000 of population.

(b) Per 1000 live births.

BIRTHS & BIRTH RATES.Classification of Births.

	<u>Live Births.</u>			<u>Still Births.</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	18	13	31	-	-	-
Illegitimate	1	-	1	-	-	-
	19	13	32	-	-	-

Total Live & Still Births	= 32
Live Births	= 32
Still Births	= Nil
Illegitimate Births	= 1

General Birth Rates.

Crude Birth Rate for District for 1954 = 14.4/1000 population
 Corrected " " " " " " = 14.9 " "

Crude Birth Rate for Pembrokeshire for 1954 = 16.7/1000 pop.
 Corrected " " " " " " = 17.3 " "

General Birth Rate for England & Wales for 1954 = 15.2/1000 pop.

The Birth Rate for the District has improved slightly over the preceding year, but is still a good deal lower than the Rate for the County & for England & Wales.

Still Births.

It is satisfactory to report that there were no Still Births during the year.

Illegitimate Births.

There was one Illegitimate Birth during the year, which has been the figure over the past 5 years.

The Illegitimate Birth Rate is much lower, than the Rate for the County and for England & Wales.

Illegitimate Birth Rate for District for 1954 = 31.2/1000 live births
 " " " " Pembrokeshire for " 39.9 " "
 " " " " England & Wales " 46.0 " "

Deaths & Deaths Rates.Classification of Deaths.

	<u>L.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Diseases of Heart & Circulatory System	7	7	14
Diseases of Brain & Nervous System (Vascular)		5	5
Diseases of Respiratory System (Excluding Cancer & T.B.)		1	5
Cancer (all forms)		2	4
Diseases of Digestive System	1	-	1
Diseases of Kidneys & Urinary System	-	1	1
Violent Deaths	-	1	1
Unclassified	2	2	4
	16	19	35

General Death Rates.

Crude Death Rate for District for 1954 = 15.7/1000 Pop.
 Corrected " " " " " " = 14.4 " "

General Death Rate for England & Wales for 1954 = 11.3/1000 Pop.

The Death Rate for the District has increased considerably over the preceding year, and is much higher than the national rate.

The bad climatic conditions of 1954 plus the high percentage of elderly persons in the District may account for some of the increase. There were considerably more deaths from Diseases of the Respiratory System, and Heart Disease, than in the preceding year. It will be noted from the following section that 60% of deaths were in persons over the age of 70 years.

Deaths in Age Groups.

0 - 1 years of age	=2	30 - 50 years of age	=3
1 -15 " " "	=1	50 - 70 " " "	=9
15-30 " " "	=Nil.	70+ " " "	=20 (60%)

Infant Mortality.

There were 2 Infant Deaths during the year, one more than the preceding year. One death was due to prematurity and the other to congenital defects.

Both deaths occurred during the first week of life i.e. the neo-natal period.

Violent Deaths.

There was one violent death during the year.

Cancer Mortality.

There were 4 deaths from Cancer during the year, 2 affecting the lungs.

Cancer Death Rate for District	= 1.8 /1000 Pop.
" " " " England &	
Wales	= 2.0 " "

The number of deaths from Cancer was the same as the preceding year. The Cancer Death Rate for the District is below the National Rate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Infectious Diseases were notified during the year :-

Whooping Cough	= 28
Measles	= 3
Pneumonia	= 3
Scarlet Fever	= 1

Apart from Whooping Cough this represents a low incidence of Infectious Disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There was a fresh case and no deaths during the year. These figures are the same as for the preceding year.

Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There was one fresh case during the year and no deaths.

PART IIENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENEMILK SUPPLIES.Sampling.General Bacteriological.

The general bacteriological sampling of milk, at consumer level, was continued during the year. Samples were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for testing, (methylene blue reduction test) and report.

The results of sampling were as follows:-

Satisfactory	= 19 Samples.
Doubtful	= 1 "
Unsatisfactory	= 1 "
Total	= 21 "

The results show a high standard of cleanliness in the production & distribution of milk. It is necessary to point out that, once again, the total number of samples taken in the year was too small. Each distributor should be sampled on an average of once per month.

School Milk.

Nil samples.

Each school should be sampled at least once per quarter.

Biological samples.

It was not found necessary to take any samples for special bacteriological examination.

Bottle Rinsings.

Nil samples.

Bottling establishments should be controlled by samples of bottle rinsing at least once per quarter.

General Statistics.

The following is a summary of milk Producers & Distributors in the District.

	<u>Designated.</u>		<u>Non-Designated.</u>	
	<u>Raw</u>	<u>Past</u>	<u>Raw</u>	<u>Past</u>
Producers only.	2	-	1	-
Retailers only.	2	-	1	-
No of Inspections of Dairies	= 9			
No of notices	= Nil.			

WATER SUPPLIES.Source & Supply.

Water is supplied to the District through the Milford Haven U.D.C. The source of the water is the Prescelly gathering ground and impounding Reservoir situated in the North of the County.

The water is a typical upland surface water, rather soft and is filtered, chemically treated, and chlorinated at Prescelly.

A branch main from the Prescelly trunk main, supplies the Neyland service reservoir. From here the water is distributed to the District without further treatment. It would be desirable to have an emergency system of distribution available at this service reservoir.

Storage of Water.

The Service reservoir has a capacity of 50,000 gallons. This is equivalent to one days supply and is inadequate to meet emergencies.

Water consumption.

The consumption of water in the District averages approximately 25 gallons per head per day, which is a reasonable figure. It indicates that there is no service wastage of water.

Sampling.

No samples were taken during the year.

Samples for general bacteriological examination, at consumer level, should be taken every month, in spite of the fact that the water is routinely sampled at source.

Also samples for chemical examination should be taken twice yearly.

General statistics.

There is 100% piped supply of water in the District.

No of new connections during year = Nil.

No of renewal of services during year = Nil.

FOOD CONTROL.Registered Premises.

Sale of Ice Cream = 9

Prepared foods &
Sausages = 4

Slaughter Houses = 2

No. of Inspections = 35

No. of Notices = Nil.

Food Stuffs condemned.

22 lbs 15½ ozs of tinned food were voluntarily surrendered and condemned.

Slaughtering & Meat Inspection.

There are 2 private slaughterhouses operating in the District. All meat slaughtered at these premises is subject to inspection.

The following is a summary of carcasses inspected during the year:-

Bovines	= 62.
Calves	= 32.
Lambs	= 294.
Sheep	= 11.
Pigs	= 95.

Ice Cream Supplies.

The following is a summary of Producers & Retailers in the District:-

Producers Only	= 0
Producer-Retailers	= 0
Retailers only	= 10

No samples were taken for general bacteriological examination during the year.

Every producer & retailer should be sampled once per month during the period 1st April to 31st September, and once each quarter during the period 1st October - 31st March.

Bakeries & Bakehouses.

There are two bakehouses in the District. Both were visited during the year and found to be satisfactory.

Cafes, Hotels & Restaurants.

The improvement to the small cafe in the District has been maintained during the year, and the cleanliness of the cafe and the attendants is satisfactory.

Licensed Premises.

There are 10 licensed premises within the District, and all were subject to inspection during the year. Hygienic conditions on the whole were fairly satisfactory.

Food Poisoning. Nil to report.

Mineral Waters. Nil to report.

HOUSING.Completion of Council Building Programme.

A. Prior to 31st December 1945 = Nil.

B. Since 1st Jan. 1946 (Post War) :-

1946	= Nil.
1947	= Nil.
1948	= 16
1949	= 30
1950	= 4
1951	= 16
1952	= 5
1953	= 3
1954	= Nil.

Total = 74.

28 houses are expected to be completed during 1955.

Other Building Programmes. Nil, in 1954.

General Statistics.

No. of Housing Inspections carried out during the	year	= 185.
No. of Informal Notices		= 15
No. of Statutory notices		= Nil.

Clearance Areas.

A number of areas in the District should be considered as Clearance Areas. The bulk of property in the town is at least 70 - 80 years old, and through lack of adequate repairs not being performed over the years, quite a number of properties are in such a sad state of repair that it seems almost certain that they cannot be rendered fit at a reasonable cost. A number of these properties are situated in the Cambrian Road, Lawrenny Street, Neyland Vale, James Street and Honeyborough areas.

Rehousing & Future Building Programme.

Applications for re-housing received at 31st Dec	1954	= 30
Estimated houses required to meet needs of clearance areas & demolition		= 50
Total		= 80

Overcrowding.

There is no information with the Council as to the state of overcrowding in the District.

Housing Grant.

A total of 9 improvements grants were approved during the year.

The Council does not operate a housing loan scheme.

Factories & Workshops.

There are 8 powered and non-powered factories in the District. There were inspected during the year and no defects found.

There are no outworkers in the District.

PART IIIGeneral Sanitation.Refuse Disposal.

Collection of refuse in the District takes place once weekly, and appears to be satisfactory.

Receptacles provided by householders are not very satisfactory.

Refuse is disposed of by crude tipping. Crude tipping is a danger to health, and an effort should be made to cover the refuse, at least periodically.

Sewage Disposal.

The District has now a major drainage system which serves practically 100% of premises.

The treatment & Disposal works are situated at western end of Promenade and consists of sedimentation tanks & sludge drying beds.

Disinfection & Disinfestation.

5 Premises were disinfected during the year.

Rodent Control.

Staff - One part time. 44 complaints received during year, 85 routine inspections made.

No of premises treated for	<u>Rats</u>	<u>Mice.</u>
Houses	82	6
Business	6	Nil.

Public Conveniences.

The town has only one public convenience which is continually suffering from vandalism. It is proposed in the coming year to construct a new convenience on a more convenient site.

General nuisances. }
Mortuaries. }
Burial of vagrant dead)
Removal of persons }
Smoke abatement. }
Public baths & Washhouses.)

Nil to report.

APPENDICES.

Appendix 1 Chief Causes of Home Accidents.

Appendix 2 Mass Radiography Statistics for 1954.

Appendix 1.HOME SAFETY.

There are approximately 2,000,000 accidents in the home each year of all kinds. Over 7,000 of them are fatal, and a great many cause serious suffering and disability,. The majority of accidents affect the aged (50% of age of 65 years) and the young (25% under 15 years).

The following is a classification of the major categories of Home Accidents:-

Falls.	=	58%
Burns & Scalds.	=	13%
Suffocation	=	12%
Coal Gas Poisoning	=	8%
Others	=	9%

Total = 100%

Falls. The following are some of the causes of falls in the home.

1. Bad lighting, both artificial & natural.
2. Unsound or unsafe stairs & flooring.
3. Highly polished surfaces.
4. Small changes in levels at doorways, halls etc.
5. Elderly people standing on chairs etc., to carry out minor repairs or alterations. (or putting up decorations.)

Burns & Scalds. The following are some of the causes of accidents due to burns & scalds.

1. Unguarded fires (Infants)
2. Unswept chimneys.
3. Pots & pans left on edge of stoves & ranges and with handles protruding.

Suffocation. The following are some of the causes of suffocation.

1. Too high & too soft pillows for infants. (low hard or none at all is best)
2. Pets (cats & dogs) gaining access to Infants sleeping in prams & cots.
3. Adults sleeping in same bed as infants.

Coal Gas poisoning. The following are some of the causes of this type of accident.

1. Coke etc., combusted in unsuitable fires.
2. Faulty gas stoves taps & connections.
(taps should be of the kind which cannot accidentally be turned on)
3. Running of car engines in confined spaces.

Electrical Installations.

1. Power switches or connections should be attended to immediately by qualified persons.
2. Power plugs should either be out of reach of infants, or be of the safety type where it is impossible for fingers to touch live sockets.
3. It is very dangerous to handle any electrical switch or apparatus with wet hands.
For this reason, there should be no switches within easy reach of a bath, wash-hand basin or sink.

Appendix 2.Neyland- General Population.Miniature Mass Radiography - September 1954.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total attendance	95	155	250 (218)
Total abnormal	9	15	24
Pulmonary Tuberculosis:-			
1. Definite cases.	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Requiring further investigation	Nil	1	1
3. Health T.B.	-	9	9
Other Abnormalities:-			
1. Bony abnormality	1	3	4
2. Bronchitis & Emphyseam	5	1	6
3. Pneumoconiosis	2	-	2
4. Heart Disease	1	1	2

Attendance according to age-groups.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under 15 years.	2	3	5
15 - 24 "	16	22	38
25 - 34 "	21	32	53
35 - 44 "	26	42	68
45 - 59 "	22	41	63
60+	8	15	23
	95	155	250